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Attorneys for [PROPOSED] Plaintiff-Intervenor
YUHA AVIATAM OF SAN MANUEL NATION,
a federally recognized Indian tribe, also federally
recognized as SAN MANUEL BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
EASTERN DIVISION – RIVERSIDE

BLUETRITON BRANDS, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE,

RANDY MOORE, in his official capacity
as Chief of the U.S. Forest Service,

CHRISTOPHER FRENCH, in his
official capacity as Deputy Chief for the
National Forest System of the U.S. Forest
Service,

JENNIFER EBERLEIN, in her official
capacity as Regional Forester for the
Pacific Southwest Region of the
U.S. Forest Service,

Case No.: 2:24-cv-09720-JGB-DTB

**DECLARATION OF PAUL HAMAI
IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO
INTERVENE AND MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION**

Hearing Date: February 3, 2025
Hearing Time: 9:00 AM
Courtroom: 1
Judge: Hon. Jesus G. Bernal

Action Filed: August 6, 2024

1 DANELLE HARRISON, in her official
2 capacity as Forest Supervisor of the San
Bernardino National Forest of the
U.S. Forest Service,

3 MICHAEL NOBLES, in his official
4 capacity as Front Country District Ranger
of the U. S. Forest Service,

5 Defendants.

6 YUHA AVIATAM OF SAN MANUEL
7 NATION, a federally recognized Indian
tribe, also federally recognized as SAN
8 MANUEL BAND OF MISSION
INDIANS,

9 [Proposed] Plaintiff-Intervenor.

1 I, PAUL HAMAI, declare:

2 1. I am a Vice President of Water Resources with Natural Resources
3 Consulting Engineers, Inc. (NRCE), an expert consultant engaged by the
4 Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation, a federally recognized Indian tribe that is also
5 federally recognized as the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians (Nation), and I
6 submit this declaration on the Nation's behalf. The facts set forth in this declaration
7 are based upon my personal knowledge, and if called as a witness, I could and
8 would testify competently thereto.

9 2. I have a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of
10 California, Berkeley, and a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from
11 University of California, Los Angeles.

12 3. In operation for 35 years, NRCE provides expert consulting services in
13 civil engineering, water resources, agricultural, and environmental disciplines.

14 4. In my position, I provide technical support for water rights
15 negotiations, water resources development, and water resources management; I
16 serve as the primary technical consultant in water rights disputes for various tribes;
17 and I prepare expert witness reports for use in water rights litigation, among other
18 engineering design, modeling, and management duties. I have provided technical
19 assistance for almost 33 years on matters concerning tribal water resources
20 development and management.

21 5. In August 2024, the Nation hired NRCE to provide expert and
22 technical consultation services related to the Nation's water rights, water uses, and
23 regional hydrology.

24 6. Water that is delivered to the Arrowhead Springs property (Arrowhead
25 Springs), which I understand is owned by the Nation, is obtained from seven
26 locations within the Strawberry Canyon of the San Bernadino National Forest at
27 elevations ranging from 4,160 feet to 5,260 feet by twelve collection facilities.
28 These facilities include two tunnels and ten boreholes. An approximately 7.3-mile

1 conveyance system (BlueTriton's System) – which I understand is owned and
2 operated by BlueTriton Brands, Inc. (BlueTriton) – conveys water by gravity from
3 these facilities to reservoirs owned by the Nation at the top of Arrowhead Springs
4 that hold water to be delivered for uses on the property through the Nation's
5 gravity-fed system ("Nation's System"), as well as to BlueTriton storage silos and a
6 truck loading facility at the mountain's base. Water that is excess, in that it is
7 neither used by BlueTriton nor by the Nation, is released back into the watershed.
8 The Nation releases any unneeded water delivered to it by BlueTriton into Hot
9 Springs Creek, a tributary adjacent to the Nation's water reservoirs which empties
10 into East Twin Creek at the south side of Arrowhead Springs. These structures and
11 their locations are depicted on the map attached hereto as **Exhibit 8**.

12 7. In connection with my work analyzing Arrowhead Springs water
13 resources, I have evaluated the contracts, permits, agency actions (including official
14 agency notices), and responses thereto in connection with the delivery of water to
15 Arrowhead Springs. I have reviewed an agreement dated September 26, 1931,
16 between the Arrowhead Springs Corporation and the California Consolidated Water
17 Company, and under that agreement, twenty (20) percent of the total water
18 collected from the BlueTriton System currently operated by BlueTriton must be
19 diverted to Arrowhead Springs. A true and correct copy of the agreement is
20 attached as **Exhibit 6** to the Declaration of Rodney Garton In Support of Motion to
21 Intervene and Motion for Preliminary Injunction filed concurrently with this
22 Declaration.

23 8. Also, in connection with my work for the Nation, I assessed the
24 historical production for each water delivery facility used by BlueTriton to deliver
25 water to the Nation, from 1995 to 2020, excluding 2004 because the BlueTriton
26 System was rendered nonoperational due to a fire in 2003. Year to year, between
27 1995 and 2020, the amount of water delivered to the Nation varied from 87 Acre
28 Feet per Year (AFY) to 505 AFY.

1 9. It is my understanding that BlueTriton ceased using water from
2 Strawberry Canyon for commercial bottling purposes in 2023 pursuant to State
3 Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Order WR 2023-0042, a true and correct
4 copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit 9**. However, SWRCB authorized
5 BlueTriton to continue delivering water through the BlueTriton System to the
6 Nation at Arrowhead Springs to meet its delivery requirements. *Id.* at 89-91.

7 10. The Nation's other existing water supplies located on Arrowhead
8 Springs are unlikely to meet the government, recreational, cultural, and wildfire
9 protection demands of the property that are presently met by the water supplies
10 delivered by BlueTriton through the BlueTriton System. The Nation cannot rely on
11 its other existing water supplies, including wells, that are located on Arrowhead
12 Springs to meet the demands on Arrowhead Springs due to the low and unreliable
13 production and temperature, high levels of contaminants in the water, and lack of
14 infrastructure. Several wells have shown elevated levels of arsenic and fluoride,
15 which without treatment make them unsuitable for potable uses and irrigation.
16 Further, the Nation does not have the infrastructure to connect some wells to the
17 Nation's System and to treat these other water sources, and such infrastructure
18 cannot be put into place by January 15, 2025.

19 11. I reviewed the Notice of Denial of Application for Use and Occupancy
20 of National Forest Lands; Termination of Special Use Permit FCD728503 (Notice
21 of Denial), issued by the United States Forest Service (USFS) on July 26, 2024.
22 The document purports to require BlueTriton to remove BlueTriton's System from
23 the San Bernadino National Forest, which is located on lands owned by the USFS.
24 A true and correct copy of the Notice of Denial is attached hereto as **Exhibit 10**. I
25 have also reviewed the letters by the USFS modifying the Notice of Denial dated
26 August 2, 2024, and August 26, 2024.

27 12. In response to the Notice of Denial, BlueTriton submitted a
28 decommissioning plan to the USFS in October 2024, a true and correct copy of

1 which is attached hereto as **Exhibit 11**. According to the document BlueTriton
2 submitted, the decommissioning plan, as proposed, is set to begin on January 16,
3 2025, and conclude on December 26, 2025. *Id.*, Appendix G. The
4 decommissioning plan requires over 10,000 helicopter flights; provision of on-site
5 materials such as fuel, oil, cement, and sanitary facilities; and removal and staging
6 of hazardous waste on-site and at the Nation's facilities. As stated on page 8 of the
7 decommissioning plan, BlueTriton "anticipates a minimum of 40 flights per day
8 (200 per week) for the duration of the decommissioning project" that is scheduled
9 to take 12 months.

10 13. Based on my analysis, removing the BlueTriton System may cause
11 environmental damage and safety risks, including, but not limited to, destroyed
12 habitat, erosion and sedimentation, landslides, hydrologic impacts, and other
13 irreparable harm. It would be appropriate for the agency to analyze these potential
14 impacts before BlueTriton decommissions the BlueTriton System. The
15 decommissioning plan did not analyze these potential impacts.

16 14. Based on my analysis, I have determined that decommissioning the
17 BlueTriton System may have impacts on cultural and historical resources that
18 should be evaluated prior to its decommissioning. It is my understanding through
19 analysis of Arrowhead Springs, and the Nation's historical connection to the area,
20 that Arrowhead Springs and the property surrounding the BlueTriton System are
21 indigenous to the Nation and its people. Further, the decommissioning of the
22 BlueTriton System will have impacts to the Arrowhead Springs Hotel, which may
23 have historical value to the San Bernadino region, as it will take away its primary
24 water source.

25 15. NRCE believes that there are benefits from keeping the BlueTriton
26 System, though perhaps under modified operation, and that such potential benefits
27 should be analyzed prior to decommissioning. For example, a potential benefit of
28 leaving the BlueTriton System in place is that the system could be reconfigured to

1 discharge water into the upper watershed and improve Strawberry Creek's
2 hydrology.

3
4 I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the United States that the
5 foregoing is true and correct.

6
7 Executed this 3rd day of January 2025 at Berkeley, California.

8
9
10 
11 PAUL HAMAI